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United States Senate
Office of the Democratic Leader
Washington, DC 20510-7020

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May 6, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Commission is currently considering a merger that could have a serious and detrimental impact on the Spanish language media market and America's Hispanic community. I am deeply concerned that approval of the merger between Univision Communications, Inc., and Hispanic Broadcasting Corp. could dramatically reduce both competition in Spanish language media and the opportunities for Hispanic media ownership.

Many Americans enjoy news and entertainment in Spanish. While many also use English media, millions of Americans do rely predominantly or completely on Spanish media outlets, because of personal preference or language skills. Your consideration of the merger should recognize this fact and take into account its consequences.

Dominance of the Spanish language media by one corporation can have the same negative effect for many Latinos as dominance of English language media can have for the general population. If the Univision merger is approved, there may be less diverse programming, news sources, and viewpoints available to Spanish-speaking audiences. This could significantly impact public debate and lead to less local and community-oriented programming. The economic consequences may be significant as well, as a dominant firm may be able to limit competition and engage in predatory practices.

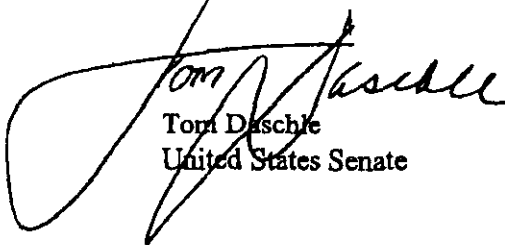
These concerns are exacerbated by the merger's possible impact on Hispanic media ownership. The pending merger is between two firms that are not Hispanic-owned. Although I have no objection to non-Hispanic ownership of Spanish language media, I believe there is a value in Hispanic ownership and am concerned that dominance of the market by one such firm will make it difficult for Hispanic-owned firms to effectively compete and continue to serve the community.

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I encourage you to evaluate the merger's potential impacts for the specific Spanish language market, not just the entire national media market, as you consider whether to approve it. If you consider these impacts, I suspect you will conclude, as I have, that this merger is not in the public interest. If you conclude otherwise and approve the merger, any remedies and conditions you require to mitigate these impacts should be as effective as those you would require of a similar merger in the general media market.

Sincerely,



Tom Daschle
United States Senate